Week #1-Notes-Sep 28, 2025
HIS017B-Renee Apelo

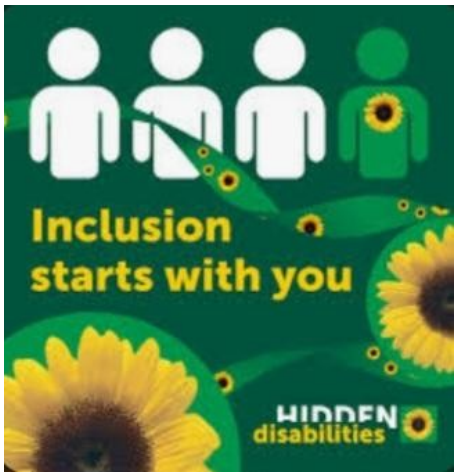
- In Canvas, I reviewed the 5-part class orientation videos on the homepage.
- On the Dashboard, I updated my profile picture, biography, and notification settings.
- I signed the class community agreement.
- I introduced myself and contributed to the class altar.

Self-Introduction:

Hi, I'm Renee Apelo.

I was born in Canada and moved to Tennessee with my family from Southeast Asia in 1997. From 2001 onward, my family and I permanently moved and lived in California.

I grew up on the Autism spectrum, so everyday living has always been challenging. Despite it all, I wanted to learn new things every day. In May 2025, after many years of hard work, I finally completed my Associate Degree in Graphic Design at Mission College. While I plan for the next milestone, I will be taking additional classes for transfer to a future bachelor's degree.



I chose to share the Sunflower symbol to signify a person's hidden disability. It's an internationally recognized ID sign that the wearer has a non-visible disability. The sunflower does not specify what disability the person has. Instead, it's a discreet way to signal that the wearer may need a bit more time, patience, understanding, assistance, or kindness.

I am fortunate and thankful to have a supportive family and inclusive support programs at Mission College.

Responses to Classmates:

Hi Thanh,

Great to hear your story. It reminded me of my family's beginnings as an immigrant family from Southeast Asia more than 20 years ago. I think you are on the right path pursuing your passion and career in accounting by studying at Mission College. Many immigrants say it is a great way to build your foundation here in America.

I can relate to your choosing of a coffee plant picture that reminds memories from your homeland and brothers. Good old memories from the past keep us grounded as they say.

Hi Kayla,

It is great to know your aspirations. Your chosen career reminds me of my mom's and aunties' successful nursing careers here in the US, born out of their aspirations for a better life for their respective families. Good luck in your journey!

- I did my own research for 3 sources to answer the Homework 1 question - **Historical Analysis #1.**

  Question: What are my thoughts on the Trump administration's efforts to "restore truth and sanity" to American history? What might be the benefits and drawbacks of Trump's efforts to rewrite history? Show three sources.

  I will start my analysis by mentioning the Executive Order 14253 – Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History [1], which was signed by President Trump on March 31, 2025. This order specifically seeks to remove or change exhibits and signage about Native American history, slavery, Japanese internment, systemic racism, and LGBTQ history. These are the areas where past Administrations emphasized inclusion and critical reflection. The Trump Administration reasoned that the order would promote unity, patriotism, and “uplifting” depictions of American heritage.

  Before this order, past attempts to rewrite parts of American history had been made by states, school boards, or historians. This order directs federal agencies

like the Smithsonian, the National Park Service, and the Department of Education to reshape historical interpretation actively.

I generally agree with the statement made by the American Historical Association (AHA) in April 2025 [2] criticizing the order. It is clearly an attempt to replace evidence-based history with a politically motivated narrative, especially about race and gender.

In an article on April 5, 2025, the Wall Street Journal [3] notes that supporters of the order believe it corrects past magnification on racial injustice and brings back pride in America's achievements.

I believe the order does more harm than good as it negates the role of oversight by professional scholars and sacrifices their roles as independent institutions. This order is more about censorship than academic scholarship. I support the Smithsonian's mission of providing an evidence-based and extensive picture of American history, not a sanitized version. History has shown that a sanitized version of past events will ultimately be judged negatively by future generations.

Works Cited:

1. Executive Order 14253: Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History (White House, March 31, 2025).

2. American Historical Association (AHA) Statement, April 2025.

3. Wall Street Journal – Trump's Push to Reframe U.S. History: Restoring Balance or Rewriting the Past?" Wall Street Journal, April 5, 2025

Responses to Classmates:

Hi Karen,

I agree that Trump's attempt to rewrite history, particularly regarding race and gender, does more harm than its lofty goals of correcting past magnification of racial injustice and bringing back pride in America's achievements. Rewriting parts of American history should be evidence-based on extensive research, investigations, and verifications by professionals such as historians, reputable organizations, even school boards, and the states, rather than being politically motivated.

Hi Rebeka,

When you brought up Trump's wish to add himself to Mount Rushmore, it says a lot about the person who likes to brag about himself despite all the contradictions most Americans have seen and heard ever since. I would rather rely on historians, reputable organizations, school boards, and even the states rewriting parts of American history. Also, I agree that defunding schools and other institutions solely based on his biased beliefs against race and gender equality will harm education in the long run.

Thank you.